NATIONAL GUARDIAN
the progressive newsweekly
5 cents
Vol. 4, No. 26 NEW YORK, N. Y., APRIL 16, 1952

WAR & PEACE

Restless labor, fretful business provoke new 'peace jitters'

THE accent in the U.S. was shifting, despite Washington's efforts, from war scares to politics, pay envelopes and election-year peace demagogy.

President Truman's seizure of the steel industry highlighted the nation's "worst attack of labor pains since 1946" (N. Y. **Times**, 4/13). Strikes were on or threatened against the nation-wide telegraph and telephone systems, involving some of the most conservative unions (AFL Telegraphers, CIO Communications Workers). Rank-and-file restlessness was forcing wage demands in other industries.

Behind labor's "sudden turbulence" the **Times** found "a lessened sense of urgency about the military situation," "ominous softness" in the domestic economy, and labor's conviction that employers have made "extortionate profits at the expense of workers' living standards." As for businessmen, many believed "strikes would help clear out overstuffed warehouses. . . ." The steel companies, said **Business Week** (4/5), "would rather face a strike than grant a pay increase without a price increase."

HARRY TRUMAN
Dishing it out

With demand for most types of steel falling, business journals thought the industry might have a hard time collecting the higher prices on anything but government orders. The **Magazine of Wall St.**, looking further ahead, predicted (4/5) that this round of wage increases would

> . . . be the last. . . . The nation must finally pause and rest from its expansive exertions of the last ten years. That will be the time when industry will not only not be able to afford a wage rise; it will have to insist on a wage reduction.

KARL M. TRUMAN: Seizure of the mills evoked a storm of fury from the companies, most of the press and Congress. The industry called Truman's assertion that the pay rise could be granted without a price rise, and still leave a $17-$18 per ton profit, a lie. (Steel price per ton jumped from $65.92 in 1946, after a $5-a-ton increase that broke the back of price control, to $110 today; profit per ton from $6.50 to $19.50). **Barron's** (4/7) found in the President's attack on profits

> . . . a contempt for the whole capitalist process more arrogant and perhaps more deadly than even the proposal to seize what Karl Marx called the means of production. For the prerequisite of a capitalist economy is that profits be determined in the marketplace.

Steel industry spokesmen called the whole thing a political pay-off to the CIO. But if Truman had an eye to labor support in November, the pay-off was more oratorical than practical. He quickly made clear the government would not for the time being put into effect the Wage Board's recommendations. The seizure thus became for midwest CIO Steel Director Germano "an injunction against the union." It seemed to put the steel union in much the same position the railroad brotherhoods have occupied since August, 1950,

(Continued on Page 4)

Spring comes to the U. S.
For new ways of killing: billions; for flood control: sticky fingers
(See story below)

BIG MUDDY BOILS OVER—10TH TIME IN 10 YEARS

The Missouri Basin drowns in a pork barrel

By Lawrence Emery

SPRINGTIME is floodtime in the U.S. Last week the Missouri River, still turbulently untamed after more than 50 years of wasteful piecemeal efforts by Army Engineers, was boiling over and threatening to surpass the destruction it caused in last summer's worst flood in 100 years. Hardest hit so far have been Bismark, N.D. (1,000 homeless, at least one known dead); Sioux Falls, S.D. (1,100 flooded out); Montana, where the Milk River, a Missouri tributary, drove 1,500 from their homes; and South Dakota's capital city of Pierre (one-fifth under water, 1,600 homeless). It was Pierre's worst flood in 71 years.

So. Sioux City, Neb., was also hit. More than 300 Iowa farm families were flooded out. Omaha, Neb., and Council Bluffs, Ia., were threatened. The Minnesota River was flooding throughout most of its length. Flood warnings were out along the entire upper Mississippi. Sioux City, Ia., was bracing for what may be the worst flood in its history. In all, nine Missouri River Basin states were already hit; 75,000 were homeless.

Flood threats hung over other parts of the nation—Central California, New England, Michigan, and the Rio Grande River Basin.

PORK-BARREL BUCCANEERS: For the Missouri River Basin, this marks the tenth flood for the tenth successive year. Behind this repetitive tragedy is one of the nation's worst and oldest scandals—the refusal of Congress and the inability or refusal of Presidents to curb the usurped power of the elite Corps of Army Engineers which, possessing legal responsibility for flood control, operates what is possibly the

country's lushest pork barrel. The late Harold Ickes, former Secy. of the Interior, wrote:

> It is to be doubted whether any federal agency in the history of this country has so wantonly wasted money on worthless projects as has the Corps of Army Engineers. It is beyond human imagination. . . . No more lawless or irresponsible federal group than the Corps of Army Engineers has ever attempted to operate in the U.S., either without or within the law.

He described its operations as "mutiny for the bounty."

THE BAND-AID PLAN: Last March 29, just before the current floods struck, the directors of the Regional Committee for a Missouri Valley Authority heard their chairman Benton J. Stong bitterly denounce the "Corps of Band-Aid Engineers." Said he:

> "Several years ago Missouri state engineers demonstrated that with more than $300,000,000 of flood control money, the Corps had succeeded in seriously worsening floods in the lower Missouri River with their band-aid plasters along the banks of the river to restrict the channel. Floods in the early 'Forties, involving no more water than some previous flows, crested up to five feet higher than before the Corps applied its patches."

A study of last year's farm flood damage in Kansas alone, conducted by the Soil Conservation Service, found a total loss of $412,000,000, most of it in topsoil; three-fourths of this disaster occurred **above** the site of any dam proposed or built by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation whose combined projects are known as the Pick-Sloan Plan. Under this plan, more than $1,500,000,000 has already been spent; another $9,400,000,000 is called for. Concerning these expenditures, past and planned, Sen. Murray (D-Mont.), a staunch supporter of a Missouri Valley Authority patterned after TVA, has said:

> "Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on flood control work which repeatedly failed. Billions more are being spent on further dams and flood control projects of questionable value."

"JUST WORDS": After last summer's disastrous floods, Congress provided an emergency fund to put deluged communities back on their feet, but went no further. The Kansas City **Star** was bitter last October:

> The Congress that could provide billions and billions for help abroad in the biggest spending orgy this nation has ever experienced, couldn't find a few million to help protect its own people from repetition of what happened last summer. Just words and more study.

Organization and pressure for an MVA—opposed by private power companies and the Army Engineers—is growing. But the immediate prospects for the Missouri Basin is more delay, with more floods likely next year. Last Jan. 3 President Truman, who has voiced support for an MVA but has not backed it up with action (five MVA bills have been killed in Congress since 1944), set up an 11-member survey commission to report back on "an orderly, businesslike development of the resources of the Basin" on Jan. 3, 1953.

OUTLOOK—FLOODS: The House Appropriations Committee last month, perhaps taking the survey commission's year-long study as a cue, criticized the Army Engineers and decided that until an "integrated national program for development of water resources" is prepared, there is no need for more "than the minimum amount for additional planning and survey work."

Apparently ignored for more than two years is a comprehensive Agriculture Dept. plan for the basin (GUARDIAN, July 25, 1951). While floods destroy life, homes, land and property, another study will go on. When its results are made known a year hence, the Missouri will be as wild and unruly as ever.

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THE MAIL BAG

Good excuse

CARROT RIVER,, SASK.

Just came home from within the Arctic Circle so I'm late with the $2. Taras Tkachuk

For the Rosenbergs

PORTLAND, ORE.

I have just had the heartfelt pleasure of sending $123 to the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. We raised this money at a party after we had a round-table discussion led by a prominent local attorney. We established the beginnings of a local Committee and hope to have other affairs to help this couple . . . who could be any one of us.

Rose Leopold

The girl understood

SULLIVAN, IND.

A group of GUARDIAN readers met yesterday and raised $15 for the Rosenberg defense fund. One of the contributors was a 16-year-old high school girl who works at night in a drive-in restaurant. She gave $2 with the remark: "I still can't believe that the American people will permit two Americans to be hung for trying to make this a better country in a world free from the curse of war."

Norval Harris

Pee-yoo!

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

A character by the name of George Middleton having resigned from the Communist Party in 1948 (and presumably having been on five years' probation) was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by a grateful sovereign. Why can't we do something for our repentant Communists — and encourage others who might be on the brink of repentance? We could establish the Right Noble Order of Repentant Communists, First, Second or Third Class, according to the prominence of the repenter. On a heraldic shield bordered with mink, instead of ermine, there could be blazoned a louse ccuchant on a skunk rampant and the motto might be "Pecunia non olet." Crudely, "Money doesn't stink."

Muriel I. Symington

How sane must you get to be called crazy?

TUSCALOOSA—Attorneys fighting the release of ex-Cover Girl Joyce Goode from Bryce Hospital here last week blamed her alleged insanity "in part" to her belief in racial equality. Atty. C. M. A. Rogers, representing Bryce Hospital, obtained the admission from Miss Goode in Circuit Court that she believed in racial equality and would not mind if her daughter married a Negro. Miss Goode was admitted to Bryce April 13, 1948.

Chicago Defender, Apr. 5, 1952.

Winner of this week's 1-year free sub prize: Henry Finck, U. of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Blood pressure up

FAIR GROVE, MO.

Please send me An American Speaks. I admire Col. Robins for the good work he did as representative of Red Cross in USSR and for the facts he furnished for The Great Conspiracy. Just finished last issue of the GUARDIAN and must say my blood pressure is up. The way the Law (?) is used to frame and persecute innocent people, here in "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Bah! It makes me sick. The Bridges "frame up" is reminiscent of the Tom Mooney and Warren Billings case in by-gone years. Geo. T. Long

Is the atom negotiable?

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Recently I was attracted by an enlarged reproduction of a newspaper ad in the street window of a bank on lower Broadway. At the top was a photo of a bank vault only slightly burned, though surrounded by rubble. This, the copy said, was the main vault of the advertiser's Teikoku branch in Hiroshima, containing all of its securities. Everything else (presumably the building as well) had been destroyed in the atom bomb raid. Then the obvious conclusion was drawn about joining the local branch of this bank as a precaution.

Now, this was all very interesting and logical. However, I couldn't help thinking: What happened to the people caught in and near the bank at the time? Did the bank manager manage to lock himself inside that safe vault in time, so that he could emerge clean, whole and negotiable afterwards? If an atomic bomb should ever hit the bank's headquarters in New York, would the firm remain solvent?

Everybody wants security, but some people want it only for their securities. Bernard Holtzman

Jack told Peter

PAHOKEE, FLA.

Peter did not understand Point Four, so Jack helped him out—you see, Peter, Point Four really means four points—Point 1: Soak the American taxpayer to buy up crooks, willing to sell out their country's resources. Point 2: Soak the American taxpayer to give the crooks guns, to kill their own countrymen. Point 3: All to be under Wall Street supervision. Point 4: Make people belie 't is Christiaan democracy. R. E. Boe

Daily Express, London

"Why, Sir Archibald! You don't mean to tell me it's the SAME General Franco people used to get so hot under the collar about when I was quite a little girl!"

Down East it's rough

YARMOUTH, ME.

Last night at town meeting those who are "sitting pretty" voted to publish the names of those given financial aid. Many opposed it, including myself. Conjure this: Maine is about 40th in education. Of 92, only one enrolls for college. There are many families in dire circumstances. In Portland 300 people sought work in one day at Burrough's factory. The Republican Party dominates the state and has for years. It controls the newspapers and radio. Its arrogance is despised by many, but not enough to be effective at the polls.

Chester E. Thompson

The sound of digging

MEDIA, PA.

I found this poem written by G. K. Chesterton—an Englishman, not an Egyptian—some years ago:

The men that worked for England
They have their graves at home;
And bees and birds of England
About the cross can roam.
But they that fought for England
Following the falling star;
Alas, alas for England
They have their graves afar.
And they that rule in England
In stately conclave met,
Alas, alas for England
They have no graves as yet.

Marilyn B. Horan

Don't dirty the books

SPOKANE, WASH.

This open letter is directed to Superintendent of Spokane Public Schools John A. Shaw:

"I read in our paper the American Legion is to start a raid on our school books. I'd like to ask who authorizes them for this job—an organization which when it has its convention women and children are not safe on the streets. I do not think they are qualified and should not be allowed to paw the books our children read. I trust this job in your hands, also the teachers. The American Legion fits in this like a blacksmith would in our medical profession."

A. Mulari

She's already learned

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Enclosed you will find $2 so that you may continue guarding me (you've done a wonderful job up to now) and $2 for a new set of wings and a new halo (with prices where they are today, I hope it covers the charges). I'm off to school now.

Electa Arenal

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NATIONAL GUARDIAN
the progressive newsweekly

Published weekly by Weekly Guardian Associates, Inc., 17 Murray St., New York 7, N. Y. Telephone: WOrth 4-1750.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S. and possessions, Canada, Latin America, Philippine Islands, $2 a year. All other countries $3 a year. First class and air mail rates on request. Single copies 5c. Re-entered as second class matter March 17, 1950 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

CEDRIC BELFRAGE, Editor — JOHN T. McMANUS, General Manager — JAMES ARONSON, Executive Editor

DEPARTMENTAL EDITORS: Tabitha Petran (War & Peace, Economics), Lawrence Emery, (Farm, Peace, Freedom); Elmer Bendiner (Labor, Politics, Latin America). ART EDITOR: Robert Joyce. ADVERTISING: Robert E. Light. BUSINESS and PROMOTION: Leon Summit. SUBSCRIPTION and CIRCULATION: George Evans.

Vol. 4, No. 26 — 178 — APRIL 16, 1952

REPORT TO READERS

The PP $1 Drive — and why YOU must pitch in

THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY's 1952 campaign is getting into gear (see p. 5) and NATIONAL GUARDIAN stands in full support of every one of its endeavors.

Most particularly, we intend to do everything we possibly can to bring the PP's Presidential ticket of Vincent Hallinan and Mrs. Charlotta Bass and its unique significance to the attention of as many Americans as we can reach in the coming months.

- No other political party can or will put a peace ticket in the Presidential contest.
- No other party can or will, from top to bottom in its candidacies, advance the basic American principle of the free and unhampered right to seek public office and the special, immediate purpose of Negro representation in all levels of our government.

THE CANDIDACY OF CHARLOTTA BASS combines these attributes with still another most important distinction; her candidacy did not result from political slate-making; it was advanced by women and the Negro people themselves, leadership and rank and file alike.

A great and gracious woman, Mrs. Bass has been a lifelong fighter for Negro rights. She stands four-square on peace and backed Dr. W. E. B. DuBois when others deserted him during the government's attempt to jail the leaders of the Peace Information Center last year.

The transcending significance of her candidacy will become more and more apparent as this campaign advances and—win, lose or draw—must blueprint the pattern of any future successful people's party campaign in America. Properly and purposefully, the Negro people are leading the fight for full democracy in America—which means simply the right of all people to share equally in the determination and fulfillment of their own destinies—and without acknowledgement of this leadership, the fight will not be won.

IN FULL AND UNWAVERING SERVICE to these principles, the GUARDIAN has refused to follow any and all will-o'-the-wisps of hope that the old machine parties can and may advance candidacies and platforms of genuine meaning to the whole people.

The Progressive Party is the only party that can do this; it is the only party that IS doing it. In this campaign and after, while these principles rule, the GUARDIAN stands in the Progressive Party's corner and intends to devote every effort to the progagation and fulfillment of its objectives.

THE MONTH OF MAY will be devoted to a NATIONAL DOLLAR DRIVE to provide the first round of financing for the Progressive Party Presidential campaign. Since the PP has consistently held its million votes in each election since 1948, the drive should produce at least a million dollars—if we can reach all the people who have voted for PP candidates consistently. Whether we can depends on people like you, who dwell among and know the rank-and-file voters.

If every reader of this issue of the GUARDIAN will start right now to round up just ten $1 contributors, the result would throw a million-dollar fright into the old party politicoes now engaged in preparing another Tweedledum vs. Tweeddledummer "contest" to fleece the American people. —THE EDITORS

P. S.: Send the money and names of contributors to Progressive Party, 150 West 46th St., New York 19, N. Y.

Changism in Carolina

DURHAM, N. C.

I see where Laurette Soong, daughter of the notorious Chinese ex-Premier T. V. Soong, recently had a big church wedding in New York, took an expensive honeymoon to Mexico and will be living in Raleigh, N. C., from now on. She married the professor son of the notorious ambassador of her uncle Chiang Kai-shek, who has a "textile" teacher's job at N. C. State College. While the Supreme Court of North Carolina at Raleigh sits on its venerable posterior and refuses to give Negro citizens equal rights in education or transportation, and even condemns to death on a frame-up the sharecropper Daniels cousins, these young scions of bloody Chinese thieves who got away with millions of American taxpayers' money, will be royally received by the Old North State and put on the public payroll and be lionized by our uppah clawss. Marinda Creech

". . . to this end . . ."

RICHMOND, CALIF.

Military Science—R.O.T.C. (ROT for short)—is a compulsory course at the U. of California. This course is not a reserve or national guard and does not in any way affect the students' draft status. However, the military runs all the classes.

In "Individual Weapons and Marksmanship" (a study brochure) the military line becomes clear: "All military training of the Army Ground Forces is directed to this end: destruction of the enemy. Our present study of individual arms is no exception." Leaving humanitarian considerations aside, it should be noted that the students are not in the Army Ground Forces, as the brochure implies, but such subtleties escape the military mind.

Recently I remarked to a conservative Republican friend, "I hate this course." "You and—let's see, how many other guys are there in ROTC?" he replied. A. S. R.

THE ALTERNATIVES: WAR AND WANT OR PEACE AND PLENTY

Socialist world offers way out of U.S.-made trade crisis

By Tabitha Petran

THE NATO conference in Lisbon last winter broke up in an orgy of mutual congratulations on the Atlantic alliance's growing unity and strength. Yet most of the back-slappers knew then—and each ensuing day has made it more obvious—that economic storm warnings were up throughout the capitalist world. The cold reality is that the foundations of that world are already undermined with contradictions. Capitalism steadily weakens in each country as rearmament proves its worthlessness as a basis for economic stability and distorts national economies.

In the midst of this crisis a new phase in power relations opens as the socialist world bids for massive expansion of world trade at the Moscow Intl. Economic Conference. After World War II, the U.S.S.R. sought greatly expanded trade with the West; but, devastated by war, its production 36% below 1940, it then needed loans or credits to finance trade—which the West refused.

Today Soviet production is double that of 1940. Together with China and Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R. comprises a trade bloc stretching from the Pacific to the Elbe, the Arctic to India, embracing a third of the world's population whose living standards are constantly rising. This vast market becomes an increasingly irresistible magnet to the weakening economies of the West and the colonial world, and hence an ever more powerful counterweight to the war drive.

These are some of the storm signals:

Slowdown in Industrial Production

In spite of the capitalist powers' skyrocketing war expenditures since Korea (U.S. war orders jumped from less than $1,000,000,000 a month before Korea to 2 billion in Dec. 1950, 3 billion in mid-1951, and 5.7 billion in Jan. 1952), the tempo of growth of industrial output slowed down considerably, and today "the dread of unemployment hangs over the heads of every Government in Europe" (N.Y. Times, 3/28).

U.S.: The index of industrial production, which rose 7% in 1950's third quarter, slowed down and dropped 3% in 1951's third quarter. Although it went up slightly in March, 1952, the index remained below 1951's high point. Output increased in war-related industries with the building of factories and machinery the backbone of industrial activity. (Such expansion of industrial plant—largely at government expense—"involves the risk of overproduction," said the Wall St. Journal, 3/4). Industrial construction was running 53% above last year in early 1952—but building contracts for this year are 31% lower. Machine-tool output soared, but new orders in Feb. were 50% below the year before.

Employment in manufacturing and mining dropped sharply from 15,612,000 in June, 1950, to 13,708,000 today.

BRITAIN: Industrial production index, which rose 8% in 1950, went up only 3% in 1951 (when direct arms spending nearly doubled) and in late 1951 and early 1952 was running below the year before. Unemployment numbered 433,000 in March, a 40% rise since June, 1950. Former Minister of Labor Alfred Robens predicted unemployment at a million by year's end. Part time "is now the rule" in textiles, footwear, auto and other industries and will soon spread to all consumer industries (Journal of Commerce, 3/18).

FRANCE: The index spurted 18% in 1950's 4th quarter, slowed down abruptly in 1951, dropping 11% in the 3rd quarter, recovering by 13% in the 4th. With entire industries paralyzed, unemployment in 1951 jumped around 30% and is spreading in textiles, boots and shoes, autos, aircraft, cinema. Les Echos, employers' journal, wrote (1/29): "We are going into a very severe crisis, bringing short-time, unemployment and poverty."

DENMARK and the NETHERLANDS had an actual decline in industrial production. Unemployment in the Netherlands was 175,000 in March, a 173½% increase since June, 1950. In Denmark, 137,400, a 516% increase. BELGIAN unemployment rose to 320,000, a 56% increase. ITALY's full- and part-time unemployed number four million.

WEST GERMANY, with as yet no big arms program, experienced a slowdown, production rising 11% in 1951's first half, barely 1% in the second. Unemployed number 1.8 million.

JAPAN's production spurted 18% in 1950's 4th quarter as a result of the Korea war boom, then slowed, dropping 3% in 1951's third quarter, remaining stationary in the 4th.

COAL: Huge NATO arms spending could not even revive West Europe's long-sick coal industry. In Britain, West Germany and Belgium, 1951 coal production was well below that of the recession year 1937. Britain's 1951 coal exports were one-quarter of pre-war. West Europe, once self-sufficient in coal, and cut off from nearby Polish coal by the U.S.-imposed blockade, imported 26 million tons in 1951, 95% from the U.S. High-priced U.S. coal, plus freight rates of $10 to $12.50 a ton, "put a heavy burden on the balance of payments of many countries, the more so as the greater part not only of the coal but also of the freight, has to be paid in dollars" (UN Economic Survey, 1951); in some importing countries it produced "violently rising prices" and "a certain degree of industrial dislocation." Coal ate up nearly three-quarters of U.S. economic aid in 1951, thereby insuring that this aid brought no permanent production assets to Europe.

A SCENE AT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
The delegates applaud the welcome address of Moscow's mayor

Strahol, Sofia
SUPERSTITIOUS?

Recession in Consumer Industry

Throughout the capitalist world, production of consumer industry plummeted owing to what the UN Survey called "the remarkable quiescence of consumer demand." Consumers weren't demanding because their pockets rapidly emptied after Korea. A conservative economist, Dr. Julius Hirsch, estimated that in the U.S. the increased tax burden and the post-Korea price rises together took $11.90 out of the average weekly pay envelope of a city worker's four-person family. In Western Europe the drop in living standards has been even greater.

U.S.: In 1951, passenger auto production dropped 32%; refrigerators, 40%; electric ranges and vacuum cleaners, 20%; textiles, 20%; leather products, 21%; furniture, 8%; homebuilding, 27%. Some of these industries faltered even though they were heavily propped by military purchases.

• Army and Air Force orders of fabrics, clothing, shoes, canvas goods totaled 190 million dollars in 1950's second half; $1,674,000,000 (9 times as much) in 1951's first half; $729,000,000 in the second half. But the military plans to cut orders 20% in 1952's first half and another 25% in fiscal 1953. Reduced military orders will hit hard an industry whose current recession has already lasted longer than all but one (1929-30) of the 13 textile depressions since 1919. Woolen and worsted industries have operated almost solely on government orders for the past year. Yet almost half of New England's 140,000 textile workers are unemployed.

• Clothing makers, operating at 73% of capacity compared to 96% a year ago, are closing down in growing numbers as war orders are filled. (Textile machinery manufacturers—in a bad slump since last spring, and now facing a backlog of orders 40% below the 1951 level—are turning to war orders for machine guns, precision instruments, and are expected to be running at least 50% on war orders by mid-1952).

• In 1951 the shoe industry suffered its second largest production drop in history although it made 20 million pairs for the military (about 4% of U.S. consumption). This year military purchase may be cut to 7 million pairs.

• With auto production running 40% below last year and sales down 36%, Nation's Business (Feb.) said: "You have to go back to the thirties to find such a pattern." Business Week (3/22) explained the auto slump thus: "Even the cheapest cars are priced at a level out of the reach of a lot of people." The Wall St. Journal (3/19) found sales of all consumer durables continued "sick."

BRITAIN: Steel, metals, engineering and homebuilding dropped below 1950 levels, and light industry declined steadily.

• Lancashire's cotton industry, hit by a 25 to 50% drop in consumer buying, also suffered from German and Japanese competition and low living standards throughout the capitalist-colonial word. With Japanese textile wages 1/5th the $22.40 British wage (for men), Japanese textiles sell at 65% of British prices and—cut off from pre-war markets (China by blockade, India by the development of native industry)—have invaded British markets in Southeast Asia, Australia, the U.S. and Britain itself. Japan is now the world's leading textile exporter. Last year, British cotton yarn exports dropped 42%, cotton goods, 29%. Australia, one of Lancashire's biggest markets, recently slashed cotton imports from Britain 80%, a cut which may affect up to 19% of Britain's cotton industry. Some 97,000 workers have lost jobs in the textile slump. At Easter, Lancashire's cotton industry is closing down for 10 days. Yorkshire's wool industry is similarly hard hit.

ELSEWHERE: The British textile depression was part of "a world textile slump . . . a pattern of out-and-out depression . . . the like of which hasn't been witnessed since the 1930's" (Wall St. Journal, 3/3). Textile industries of France, Belgium, Japan, India, Canada, etc., were similarly hard hit, as a result of the classic "overproduction" of capitalism, while more than half the world remains ill-clad.

In West Europe the shoe industry was even harder hit. All consumer industries dropped or slowed—including West Germany's, where the decline was 13%. In Japan the drop in consumer industry brought an overall decline in all manufacturing at the end of 1951.

What peace does to capitalism

Commodity futures tumbled to the lowest levels since last August 1. Extensive selling was ascribed to Russian Premier Stalin's statement that a "third World War is no closer today than it was two years ago." Some liquidation was also touched off by a Government report that basic crops were making satisfactory progress in most areas. Pressure centered chiefly on crude vegetable oils and all contracts dropped to new lows for the season.

Wall St. Journal, April 2.

Contraction and Distortion of World Trade

Although soaring prices lifted the value of world trade, its physical volume increased only in 1950's second half, thereafter declined. Its lopsided character showed in the severe balance-of-payments crises which developed in mid-1951 in Britain, the Commonwealth, much of Western Europe, and parts of Latin-America.

• In mid-1951 trade of the sterling area as a whole took a sudden adverse turn equivalent to almost 2.5 billion dollars a year. Dollar and gold reserves of Britain, banker for the sterling area, dropped 40% or 1.5 billion dollars in 1951's second half. By March 31, 1952, its reserves were down to 1.7 billion dollars—below the 2 billion considered rock bottom for financial safety, and equal to only a third of the total value of the sterling area's imports from the dollar area and West Europe in 1951.

• France's trade with the dollar area and West Europe deteriorated sharply as the volume of its imports rose 35%, while exports remained stationary and at year's end began

(Continued on Page 4)

IN ENGLAND THE WOMEN DEMAND MORE FOOD, LESS BOMBS
More Britons would be working if U.S. didn't bar trade with U.S.S.R.

Strikes, business woes start 'peace jitters'

(Continued from Page 1)

when Truman seized the roads, put them under nominal Army operation, with Army spokesmen refusing ever since to negotiate wages or implement last year's emergency board wage recommendations.

THE IKE APPROACH: The government's handling of the steel dispute provoked the **Wall St. Journal** to despair (4/7):

> There is no man living—nor is one likely to be born—who can step into the White House and make disappear that mass of difficulties which has created a feeling of insecurity to a degree that no other generation of Americans has known.

There were no such doubts in the Eisenhower camp, preparing to welcome their leader home following his request to be put on inactive status. The general indicated his approach to America's "mass of difficulties" in a refusal to answer a civil rights questionnaire from Rep. Adam Powell (D-N.Y.):

> . . . I simply cannot find time to make the detailed studies and analysis required to answer the questions you submitted. Such a task could only be accomplished with the help of expert assistants. . . .

His campaign manager, Sen. Lodge, announcing the general will "not go barnstorming or beating the bushes"

Carrefour (Gaullist), Paris

"Are our French Communists supporting Eisenhower for President of U.S.A.?"

nor indulge in arguments like Truman and Taft, said: "The people want messages of hope and leadership. . . ." Meanwhile Democratic strategists, "feverishly trying to figure out ways to put their war-torn party back together again," were planning a "concerted effort . . . to win back the South" by assigning "more Southern Democrats" to write the party's civil rights platform (**WSJ**, 4/10).

"PEACE JITTERS" AGAIN: To Arthur Krock (**N.Y. Times**, 4/10) the campaign's "sound and fury" came down to this:

> If one set of candidates can convince the voters that they are better guides to a lasting peace than another, the first will be the victors at the November poll.

The Administration, recognizing the Korean War as "a political jinx," announced it expected a truce by May 1. But "peace jitters" had already begun "to show up" (**WSJ**, 4/11):

> The twinge of recession could become the pang of deflation. That would be bad politically for the Democrats.

Washington continued to spurn Soviet proposals to settle international problems by negotiation—but not without criticism even at home. The Detroit **Free Press** (4/8), calling this "arid and stupid diplomacy," said the U.S. must examine these proposals because

> . . . any other course would be fatal, when many people among our allies in Europe fear we are "dragging" them into an unnecessary war.

WALL ST.'s "WHY": Washington was determined to go ahead with its German policy, and even if Moscow gave in on Korea and Austria

> . . . would not abandon or postpone the integration of West Germany into the European community. . . . This policy has its critics in Washington but not at the top of the State Dept. (James Reston, NYT, 4/8).

WSJ's Joseph E. Evans said (4/10) "there can be little doubt as to [the] seriousness" of the Soviet proposals, adding that what Moscow offers is

> . . . not only the unification of Germany, though that by itself is enormous. It is also free trade, the opening of markets to a Europe which desperately needs them. It is also the resolution of the East-West conflict through negotiation at the highest level—in other words an end to the cold war, the closest thing to peace this age can hope for.
>
> Why is it the U. S. cannot countenance, much less accept, the Soviet offerings of German unity, free trade and an end to the cold war—since those are precisely the goals toward which U. S. policy professes to work? Part of the answer is that those goals are no longer in practice the goals of U. S. policy. . . .

"RATHER SUBSTANTIAL": In reply to the Western answer to its original proposals, Moscow agreed to inspection of both German zones as a condition for elections—to be conducted, however, by a four-power commission rather than the UN commission Washington wants. Its note asked a meeting of the four powers so that all questions could be ironed out speedily. The Soviet demand for prompt action

> . . . appeared to raise rather substantial questions for the U. S., Britain and France. If the Western Powers draw out the exchange with Moscow on the German question, they may well open themselves to the charge of seeking to delay the solution of a question that the Soviet Union is on record as seeking urgently to solve (NYT from Moscow, 4/11).

Washington first termed the new note "repetitious," saw "no hope" of a four-power meeting, "was inclined to disregard" the proposal for a four-power commission; then, as reports came that "London and Paris might not be as willing to throw down the Russian note entirely as diplomats here first seemed to be doing" (**NYT**, 4/23), suddenly professed to see "some gain."

Washington Post

"OK—now let's open it"

ALLUREMENT: In Germany the note's emphasis on immediate elections was "the most alluring and potentially dangerous point. . . . Popular opinion that unity is possible is expected to be encouraged still further" (**NYT**, 4/12). The Social Democratic Party had already issued a statement condemning any alliance with the West. Adenauer's own paper, criticizing the inflexible attitude of Bonn and the West, said: "The Russians are winning the diplomatic battle for Germany."

Elaborating its stand on national German armed forces, Moscow said such forces would be much better than "to create in West Germany hireling troops of revengers headed by Fascist-Hitlerite generals ready to engulf Europe in a third World War." It also stressed that under its proposals Germany could not enter any military coalition. Moscow seemed to be putting it up to Western progressives to step up their fight against the whole U.S.-sponsored military coalition spearheaded by the rearmament of West Germany. The Executive of the Partisans of Peace, meeting in Paris, decided after long discussion to continue to fight for disarmament of Germany.

A WALL IS CRACKED: After making a "very substantial dent" in the trade barriers between East and West, according to Lord Boyd Orr, head of the British delegation, the Intl. Economic Conference ended in Moscow. British and Chinese delegates concluded a $56 million trade pact for purchase by China of British textiles, chemicals and metals and by Britain of Chinese coal and foodstuffs. With the U.S.S.R., British delegates concluded deals for sale of high quality textiles, made other deals with East Germany and Rumania. French traders made $37 million worth of deals with Russia, China and East Germany. Poland booked orders for $42 million worth of products. Russia sold Pakistan 100,000 tons of semi-fabricated steel. Total deals were estimated at $200 million, with the possibility that the figure might climb higher. Conferees demanded a second conference, suggested a permanent international trade organization be set up under U.N. The **WSJ** (4/7) said:

> . . . The Reds are keeping the conference delegates to the "business-only" rule a bit too closely to suit Western officials watching from this side of the Iron Curtain. . . . By ignoring . . . political considerations, the Soviets may succeed in making the West look like the "culprit" that doesn't want better trade relations.

The Western press generally sought

(Continued on following page)

Germs in containers

On April 3 the N.Y. **Times** quoted an Army spokesman as saying that leaflet bombs (which the Chinese have charged were used to drop germs on Northeast China and North Korea) "theoretically were not adaptable to germ warfare."

On April 6 the N.Y. **Herald Tribune** quoted Gen. E. T. Bullene, chief of the Army Chemical Corps, as saying that the delivery of germs to enemy territory was simple, involving equipment with which the Army was already well-stocked, such as the containers currently used for dropping propaganda leaflets."

Next week the GUARDIAN in a special story will detail this and many other contradictions in the germ warfare controversy.

Trade with the socialist world: way out of the crisis

(Continued from Page 3)

> to decline. By the end of 1951 its exports covered only 48% of its imports; its trade deficit totaled a billion dollars; its gold reserves, 500 billion dollars.
>
> • Italy's imports from the U. S. exceeded its exports to the U. S. by 6 to 1. West Europe's adverse trade balance with the U. S. and Canada was running about 4 billion dollars a year by the end of 1951. Japan's deficit with the dollar area was 642 million.

Rearmament and the sharp drop in U.S. imports (to a level well below the pre-Korea average)—a drop aggravated by a 2.5 billion decline (at annual rate) in U.S. economic aid in the last half of 1951—were the chief immediate factors behind the strained balance of payments of the capitalist world outside the U.S.

Among underlying factors was the cutting of traditional trade with Eastern Europe, China and Russia, compelling the Marshall Plan partners to buy from the U.S. In the years since 1948 their exports to the U.S. covered only 1/5 to ½ of their imports from it, by mid-1951 they had gone 22 billion dollars in the red.

Efforts by leading members of the sterling area to balance their payments accounts by reducing the total volume of their mutual trade in late 1951 produced a chain reaction of import cuts now extending far beyond the sterling area. This series of import cuts produced "an intra-European trade depression already . . . boomeranging from one country to another" (**WSJ**, 3/24)—creating unemployment without solving the payments crises. Britain's reserves remained so low there was still "doubt whether the pound can be saved from another devaluation" (**WSJ** 4/5).

U.S. BUSINESSMAN IN MOSCOW
Oliver Vickery praised U.S. business

Current Depreciation and Falling Living Standards

Arms spending (up 1½ to 2 times since Korea and more than 12 times prewar) upped taxes in the capitalist nations to 33 to 40% of their national incomes. This Government tax take is leading to continuous inflation, which means continuously falling living standards. Average per capita share of the national output in France comes to about $661; taxes cut it to $396. In West Germany the figures are roughly $475 and $250; in Italy, $271 and $184; in Britain, $875 and $412; in the U.S. $1,721 and $1,262 (**N.Y. Times**, 3/16).

Tax payments failed to cover war expenditures. The result:

• **Budget deficits** (France's was 1.7 billion dollars; U.S.'s estimated will be 10 billion or more in budget terms, but less in cash outlay), or budgets balanced as in Britain at the expense of drastic cuts in living standards.

• Increases in national debt with corresponding increases in interest charges and taxes to meet loans. At the end of 1951 U.S. national lebt was 260 billion dollars; Britain's more than 30 billion pounds; France's 4,000,000 million francs; Italy's 2,800,000 million lira.

• Resort to the printing presses; paper money put into circulation in amounts far beyond normal economic requirements. In France and Italy more money has been put in circulation since World War II than during the entire period 1914-1945 (see chart below).

The French franc has lost 90% of its gold value since pre-World War II, the Italian lira 97%, the British pound 30½%, while the gold value of the dollar is fictitious since it has lost something like 45% of its purchasing power. The franc is now losing purchasing at the rate of 30% annually; the pound

Tribuna Wolnosci, Warsaw

lost more than 26% of its purchasing power since 1945.

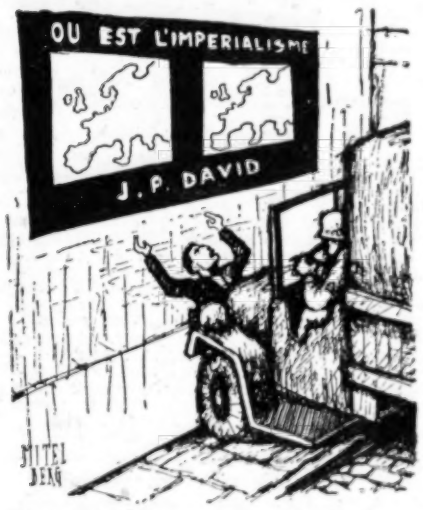
These economic storm warnings are shattering the fictitious political front Washington is trying to establish throughout the capitalist world. As this becomes apparent, U.S. policy-makers are making more and more desperate efforts to tighten the political and economic straightjacket on their "partners." In future articles the GUARDIAN will discuss these efforts and the resistance rising in the nations involved.

MONEY IN CIRCULATION

	1937	1950	1951
U.S.	5.6 billion dollars	27.9 billion	29.4 billion
Britain	460 million pounds	1,290 million	1,360 million
France	94 billion francs	1 trillion 590 billion	1 trillion 883 billion
Netherlands	928 million guilder	2,967 million	3,044 million

(Continued from preceding page)

to discount the conference, castigate Russian motives. But owners of idle factories don't care about Russian motives, said **CBS's** Howard K. Smith from London (4/13), adding that the conference had had a real effect on Western public opinion.



The American War in France

On Mar. 18 Alfred Gadois, local union leader at Melun, 25 miles from Paris, was crushed to death by a U.S. Army corporal who drove his truck into a column of peacefully demonstrating strikers. Cartoonist Mitelberg in **Humanite** sardonically pictured the murder of Gadois taking place under one of the posters of the U.S.-financed propaganda organization of J. P. David, which seek to inspire U.S.-occupied France with fear of "Soviet imperialism." The following week, police appeared at Paris' Lyon station and confiscated flowers carried by workers going to Gadois' funeral.

Asians protest "free speech suppression" by West in UN

OPPOSITION of the U.S., Britain, France, Netherlands, Greece and Turkey doomed the efforts of 11 Asian-Arab states for a UN Security Council discussion on Tunisia, French North African protectorate asking "home rule" where France has arrested political and labor leaders wholesale. Common theme of the opposing Atlantic bloc members was that debate on the issue would "inflame passion and jeopardize peaceful negotiations between the Tunisians and the French." Importance of the principle involved to all colonial and held-back peoples was shown by Chile, Brazil and Kuomintang China voting for debate with the U.S.S.R. In a barbed speech current Council chairman Bokhari of Pakistan said:

> "Today, the 10th of April, will go down in the history of UN as the day on which the foundations were laid for the suppression of free discussion. . . . If free discussion in this international forum hinders [the French Resident General in Tunisia], why then it must be hindering him in something evil. . . . Although we have failed, we 15 nations — the five in the Security Council that might vote for this item and the ten outside that cannot vote—we shall have been defeated by six nations. The world will draw its own conclusions."

Bokhari proposed that before a vote was taken, the request of the ten outside members for an opportunity to answer "insulting remarks" by the French delegate should be granted. In Tunisia puppet Premier Salaeddine Baccouche finally dug up enough other puppets to form a cabinet which would "work with" the French.

BRITAIN BANS SERETSE: Britain told the Security Council it "would be the first to admit there is such a thing as national feeling" in non-self-governing territories. At the same time it dealt a blow to the "national feeling" of the Bamangwato tribe in Bechuanaland by permanently banishing chief Seretse Khama, his British wife and their child, against the wishes of the tribespeople "whose affection for Seretse has grown stronger with his absence" (London **Observer**, 3/30). In London Seretse charged that the Tory government, like its Labour predecessor, was "desperately determined to placate South Africa" where racist moves have out-Hitlered Hitler. A Bamangwato delegation arrived in London to inteview Commonwealth Minister Lord Salisbury.

While France's and Britain's colonial difficulties increased, Franco's Foreign Minister Artajo began in Lebanon a "goodwill" tour to extend Spanish influence in North Africa and the Middle East. Franco loaned $6,500,000 to the caliphs of Spanish Morocco, asked

> . . . denunciation of the agreement reached by the U.S., France, Britain and the U.S.S.R. in Paris in 1945 which forced Spain to withdraw her troops from Tangier (Times, 4/9).

SMOKE IN EGYPT: Talks between Britain and Egypt, reported the **Times** (4/7), "had reached so critical a phase that they might easily go up in smoke"

Daily Worker, London

"Ah, mon général, this will show what strong bonds unite the Western democracies and the colonial peoples!"

over the Egyptian demand for British evacuation of Suez and Egyptian unity with the Sudan. Next day the U.S. Ambassador accompanied the British Ambassador to confer with Egypt's Premier. Merry monarch Farouk considered postponement of elections scheduled for May 18 in the hope of weakening the still strong Wafd party.

Farouk was caught between rising Egyptian nationalism and desire to maintain his privileges with Western assistance, which might precipitate a revolution. According to **ONA** (4/8),

> . . . among the 150 former officers of Hitler's Wehrmacht now serving in the Egyptian Army as key advisers are two of the most notorious mass murderers in the Nazi SS . . . Adolf Eichmann and Oskar Dirlewanger.

FAR EAST: U.S. support of Chiang Kai-shek against China produced more embarrassments. Sen. Morse (R-Ore.) submitted documents detailing the activities of the China Lobby. Navy Secy. Dan A. Kimball,

> . . . whose statement in Tokyo recently that the U.S. Navy would "cheer" a Nationalist invasion of the Communist-held mainland was repudiated by State Dept. officers here . . . urged a five-fold increase in the size of the 400-man U.S. military assistance mission that is grooming the Chinese Nationalist forces on Formosa. . . . He remarked that the Chinese [Chiang's forces], much as they might want to "get back to their homeland," would not get there unless the U.S. "takes them" (Times, 4/10).

U.S. policy toward the Far East and colonial world was strongly condemned

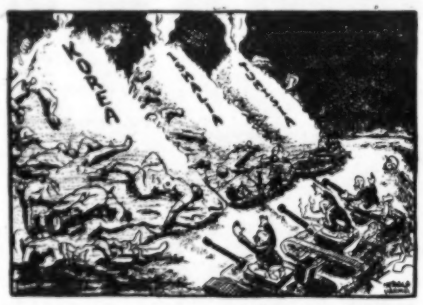
Over there & over here

For the people of the capitalist world, the U.S.S.R.'s spring announcement of another 10 to 30% cut in prices in April, underlined the bread-and-butter aspect of trade and peace as opposed to war and blockade. Since the last war the U.S.S.R. has made these price reductions:

1946: 40% average cut on consumer goods.
1947: food, 60-70%; household goods, 53%; clothing, 75%.
1948: 10-20% cut on consumer goods.
1949: 10-30% cut on food; 10 to 20% on clothing.
1950: 10-14% on major consumer items; 20% food.
1951: 10-20% food; 20% building materials, gasoline; 22% kerosene.
1952: 10-30% food.

In the same period the cost of food in the U.S. has risen (by the official index) 62%, clothing 37%, the cost of living index 47.3%. The more accurate index of the United Electrical Workers calculates the cost of living has gone up 55.8% since 1946.

According to the British Quaker delegation that visited the U.S.S.R. recently headed by chocolate tycoon Paul Cadbury, the day-to-day living standard in the U.S.S.R. (which had 1,700 cities and 70 000 villages destroyed, 25,000,000 made homeless by the war) is now about the same as Britain's.



Crossroads, Bombay

The chorus of imperialists: "Asiatics and Africans, we are pledged to save you from communist aggression."

in the successful Cultural Conference and Peace Festival at Calcutta, India, April 2-6. Washington prevented Paul Robeson and Howard Fast from attending, but delegates rose and remained on their feet throughout a special recording lasting half an hour in which Robeson sang Spanish, Hebrew, Russian and English songs and made a ten-minute speech with the final words spoken in Hindustani.

The Nehru government denied visas to Soviet and Chinese delegates, but with characteristic ambiguity announced an official Indian goodwill mission to China to leave April 27 headed by former ambassador to Washington Mme. Pandit and including a Socialist Party leader. Two unofficial Indian missions have already visited China, consisting largely of anti-Communists. Typical of their reaction (there was hardly a word of criticism from either delegation) was the two-part article (4/5, 4/12) in **The Nation** by leading conservative economist V. K. R. V. Rao, who reported that New China's policies had

> . . . linked the vast majority of the peasants to the government by almost indissoluble ties [and] obtained the support of the general urban population.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Convention is set for July 4 in Chicago

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Progressive Party will be held in Chicago over the July 4 week-end, by decision last week-end of the party's national campaign committee.

Purpose of the early convention is to have the ticket of Vincent Hallinan and Mrs. Charlotta Bass officially in the field, symbolizing the fight for peace and Negro rights in the Presidential arena, when the old party conventions meet later in the month.

Said Vito Marcantonio of New York, campaign committee chairman:

> "The principal issue of the 1952 campaign is peace. The purpose of the Progressive Party in entering its candidates first, is to guarantee the American people an opportunity to vote for peace in the 1952 elections. This opportunity will be otherwise denied them, according to the clearly announced views of the principal candidates of both the Democratic and Republican parties, and the bipartisan record of both parties, which have joined in fastening war policies and enormous tax burdens on the people in the last 4 years."

Convention calls will go not only to Progressive Party members but to church, labor, farm, youth and peace groups and broad Negro groupings.

HEARINGS TO BE HELD: To prepare for the convention, pre-convention committees were set up on rules, credentials, arrangements and platform. The Platform Committee will have three co-chairmen (east, midland and far west) with instructions to assemble regional committees and hold hearings throughout the country on peace, full Negro equality and representation in government, an end to the wage freeze, establishment of a peacetime economy of full employment, free collective bargaining, fulfillment of the Bill of Rights.

Thus far 30 PP state organizations have endorsed the national ticket. Others will act at state conventions and meetings before the candidates are proposed for final ratification at the convention.

WILL HALLINAN BE THERE? President Truman alone has the say whether Hallinan may attend his own nominating convention. Sentenced to six months in jail for contempt of a federal court (for seeking to introduce Supreme Court and other previous decisions clearing labor leader Harry Bridges of charges of communism in fighting the government's fourth attempt to deport him or railroad him into jail), Hallinan began serving his sentence on April 1. Without executive action he cannot be out before Aug. 15.

For the first week of his sentence, Hallinan was lodged in San Francisco County jail. The second day he became a trusty; before the week was out he had talked an imprisoned wife-beater into asking his wife for a reconciliation. Mrs. Vivian Hallinan was permitted daily visits but her last visit came a few minutes too late; Hallinan, shackled to an accused narcotics vendor and a one-time Hallinan client, had been shipped off that morning to McNeil Island penitentiary in Puget Sound, one of the federal prisons furnishing convict labor to build U.S. concentration camps.

TOTAL WAR AND TAXES: The weight of the campaign rested on Mrs. Bass, editor and lecturer and for 30 years publisher of the weekly California **Eagle**. Mrs. Hallinan was batting for her husband.

Author of a book published this month about her illustrious husband and their six husky sons, **My Wild Irish Rogues**, Mrs. Hallinan had her hands full fighting a government tax lien for nearly $340,000 dating back to 1948 when the Hallinans set up a trust fund for their children. The lien has tied up all the family resources. Generally regarded as a part of the government's total war against Harry Bridges and those in his defense, the tax suit imperils every family trust fund in the country.

Mrs. Bass, a long-time leader of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People and now president of the nationwide organization of Sojourners for Truth and Justice among Negro women, was already campaigning vigorously.

FREEDOMS

Rosenbergs lose rehearing appeal

LAST FEB. 25 the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and death sentences of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage; last week the same court unanimously decided not to grant a rehearing. The Supreme Court will now be asked to review the case. The appeals court also denied a rehearing to Martin Sobell, convicted of complicity in the case and sentenced to 30 years.

In the appeal for a rehearing the defense cited the Constitutional safeguards in trials for treason, argued that imposition of the death sentence on a charge of a similar but less grave offense, without the safeguards provided in treason cases, amounts to "cruel and unusual" punishment. The Appeals Court in its opinion conceded debatable questions of law concerning the death sentences, urged the Supreme Court to settle the issue.

BULLITT'S HISS DUD: Into the Alger Hiss case—most widely known of the series of cold-war "spy" prosecutions which have prompted the GUARDIAN to ask if the U.S. Govt. is in the frame-up business—former U.S. ambassador to Moscow and Paris William C. Bullitt threw a damp bombshell last week. He testified before the Senate internal security subcommittee that in 1939 Edouard Daladier, Chamberlain's partner at Munich who was then Premier of France, told him "two brothers named Hiss" in the State Dept. were Soviet agents.

Questioned in Paris, Daladier said (N.Y. Times, 4/9)

> . . . he did not recall either the name Hiss or a 1939 conversation with Mr. Bullitt about any brothers in the State Dept.

CALENDAR

Chicago

WARSAW GHETTO MEMORIAL. Raise your voice in song and action. Rabbi A. E. Abramowitz, J. I. Fishbein, Cantor Harold Brindel, Roslyn Harvey. Sat., April 26, 8 p.m., Grand Ballroom Sherman Hotel. Admission: Free.

FRI., APRIL 25, 8 p.m. CELEBRATE 15th ANNIV. LINCOLN BRIGADE WITH STEVE NELSON, former Lt. Col. Spanish Republican Army, now a victim of the Smith Act, at CHOPIN CULTURAL CENTER, 1547 N. Leavitt St. Cultural program, social and refreshments afterward. 75c tax inc. Benefit Committee to Defend Lincoln Vets, and Political Victims Welfare Committee.

MATISSE—a critical review of the current Art Institute Show. 5 artists' views. Fri., April 18, 8 p.m. ASP Cultural Center, 946 N. Clark.

SAY GOODBYE TO FANNIE KARANT. Sat., Apr. 26, 8:30 p.m., at Block's, 7732 Calumet Av. Smorgasbord supper. Entertainment. Donation $1, Rosenberg Fund.

Los Angeles

TODAY'S NEWS ANALYZED with discussion in town meeting tradition. MARTIN HALL, every Monday night at ASP Council, 7410 Sunset, 8 p.m. GR 4188. Don.: 60c.

THE U. S. AND EASTERN EUROPE: 10th in a 15-week Seminar on international relations by **MARTIN HALL.** 8:15 p.m. Thurs., Apr. 24, First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8 St.

New York

VITO MARCANTONIO in a searching analysis of "The Perspectives for 1952 and the Role of the Progressive Party" on Thurs., April 24, 8:15 p.m. American Labor Party, 28 Greenwich Av., near W. 10th St. Discussion followed by questions and answers. Admission: Free.

Philadelphia

FIRST SHOWING IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA "Peace Will Win," Sat., Apr. 19, 5101 "F" St. (side entrance), 8:30 p.m. Refreshments. Donation. Sponsored by 35th Ward Progressive Party.

Washington, D. C.

"PEACE WILL WIN," April 26, 9 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 9th & T Streets, N.W. Sponsored by Progressive Party of D.C. Admission: $1 including tax.

CLASSIFIED

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General

SHARE TRIP—Young couple plan leisurely trip from New York City to northwest U.S. early part of June. Want party to share expenses and driving. Write Box D, National Guardian, for details.

DISCUSS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY, the Soviet peace proposals, etc. Get a competent speaker from us with up to date information. Contact: The German American, Inc., 130 East 16th St., New York 3, ORegon 4-4476.

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New York

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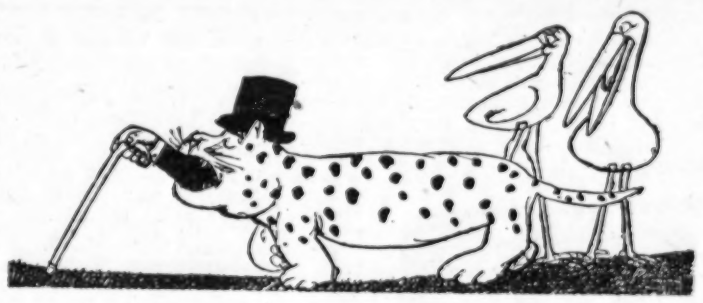

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THE LAW

Yonkers paper calls killing protest shock

ANNUALLY the UN compiles a "Yearbook on Human Rights" to record the progress of freedom and liberty in member states. Last week the U. S. listed its gains; they included construction of jimcrow school facilities in Mississippi, a series of court rulings restricting the right to picket, and New York's Feinberg Law which sets up a witch-hunting apparatus in the public school system. Following are some of last week's developments in U. S. human rights, not listed in the UN report.

The Yonkers murders

In Yonkers, N. Y., the leading newspaper attacked the Natl. Assn. for Advancement of Colored People for demanding swift punishment of a retired cop who shot and killed two Negro brothers in cold blood on March 19 because they drank beer in the same tavern with him (GUARDIAN, April 9). Said the **Herald Statesman:**

> Whom and what—but the Commies—can it serve to unfurl battle cries for a war on "white supremacy"? It is shocking and astonishing that substantial Yonkers citizens lend themselves to such uncivic and perilous enterprises.

Westchester County leaders persisted in their perilous course. An interracial delegation representing 18 civic and community groups met with City Manager Charles L. Curran to demand that the bereaved families of the murdered men be indemnified; that the killer be prosecuted swiftly for first-degree murder; that Gov. Dewey replace Dixie-minded District Atty. George M. Fanelli; and that the city be made safe for its Negro residents. Curran promised to recommend establishment of a Yonkers race relations clinic, said he wouldn't intercede against Fanelli.

NEW YORKERS STIRRED: In New York City the Civill Rights Congress held an emergency conference to coordinate action in the Yonkers case. The American Labor Party called on the Governor to appoint a special prosecutor, name a special commission "to conduct a statewide investigation of the growing wave of terror against the Negro people."

Trenton victim in danger

Appeals went out for demands to New Jersey Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll that Collis English, one of two of the framed Trenton Six still in prison, be granted immediate medical care to save his life. Suffering from a heart ailment acquired during war-time service with the Navy, English has had four attacks since his imprisonment; the latest was so severe that jail authorities summoned his nearest kin and a minister, but refused to call in their heart consultant. English is denied the right to examination and treatment by his own physician, a heart specialist.

CRC head William L. Patterson called on Gov. Driscoll to "order English's freedom on bail or have the blood of this innocent Navy veteran on your hands." The original Trenton Six were condemned to death on a murder frame-up in 1948; after world-wide protests stirred by the GUARDIAN, four were acquitted at a second trial. Appeal of English and Ralph Cooper will be argued this spring.

Hearing for Daniels cousins

For three years a local defense committee in Durham, N. C., has fought death sentences against Bennie and Lloyd Ray Daniels, cousins and sons of Negro sharecropper families. They were convicted of murder on forced written confessions; neither can read or write. Their case has gone through one superior court trial, three state appeals, one federal court hearing, three U. S. appeals. Last week the U. S. Supreme Court granted a hearing for April 28.

Also to get a hearing is Clyde Brown, Negro youth of Winston-Salem, N. C., for two and a half years under death sentence on a rape charge; the alleged victim testified in court that she "didn't remember" the event.

Justice Douglas assents

Last week Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, famed for his dissents, made an assent: writing the 5-to-3 majority opinion, he upheld the constitutionality of that section of the McCarran Act which provides ten years' imprisonment for aliens who fail to carry out their own deportations by making "timely application" (within six months of a deportation order) for "travel or other documents necessary to his departure." The decision upset an earlier federal court ruling that the provision is unconstitutional because of vagueness. Justices Black, Jackson and Frankfurter dissented.

The case involves Frank Spector, ordered deported in 1930 to his native Russia, which declined to issue an entry permit. Now on trial in California under the Smith Act, he faces additional prosecution on five counts under the McCarran Act. Ex-Atty. Gen. McGrath argued that "he is a distinct threat to the national security of the U. S."

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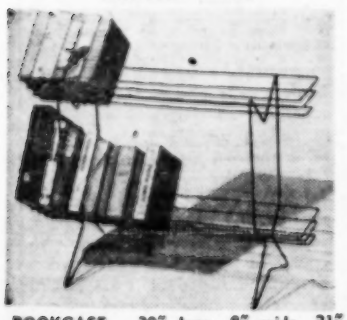

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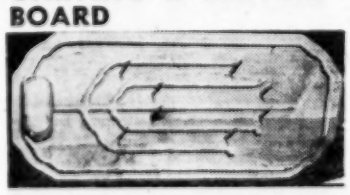

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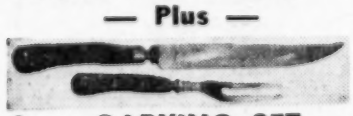

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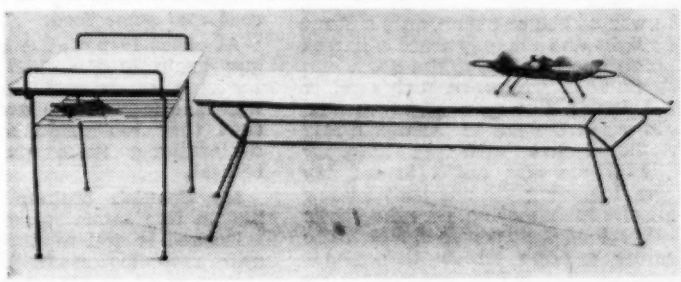

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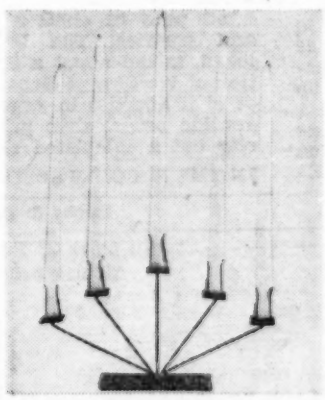

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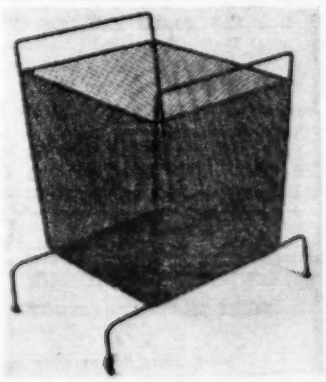

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WHAT HAPPENED TO ONE PEACE PILGRIM IN SOUTH AMERICA

Guardian staff member describes jail week-end in Peron's Argentina

(Elmer Bendiner, GUARDIAN associate editor, was a U.S. delegate to the "banned" Montevideo peace conference and afterwards proceeded to Argentina for a short visit. New York newspapers reported Mar. 30 that he had been found at an "unauthorized Communist meeting" in a Buenos Aires dentist's apartment with nine lawyers and arrested; in a front-page, four-column-headline story in the Buenos Aires Peronista paper La Epoca, *Bendiner was described as "leader" of the "nine extremist lawyers" and as an "agent of Wall St." Here is Bendiner's account of the incident.)*

By Elmer Bendiner

RIO DE JANEIRO April 2

I HAD been living wiith a young Argen- lawyer, a member of the League for the Rights of Man (corresponding roughly to the U.S. Natl. Lawyers' Guild). Like others in the League, he had defended many of the political prisoners who fill Argentina's jails.

On March 29 I went out early, breakfasted in a cafe, walked about town for an hour or so and returned. The apartment was filled with police and many other men whom I had not seen before. Officers were striding about with clanking swords. I backed away from the door but a policeman hauled me back, frisked me and sat me down.

We went first to a nearby police precinct where they removed our neckties, belts, wallets, papers and—what caused me more concern—all my notes on the Montevideo Peace Conference and the names of some Argentine friends.

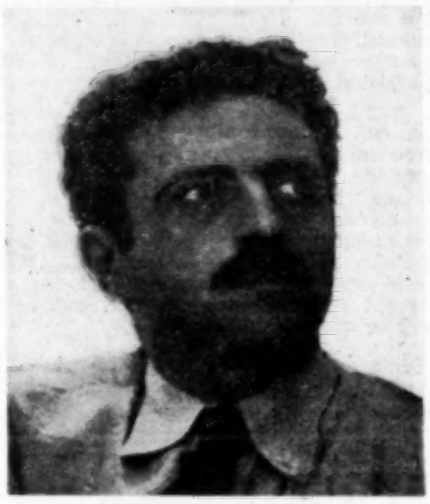
HOW COME? I was booked, fingerprinted, then ordered held incommunicado and shown to a chill, damp cell. There was no bed or bench, only a stone ledge; light and air only from a barred foot-high aperture above the door.

My first interrogation came after several hours. Six men stood around me: how did I come to Buenos Aires? Why did I live with my attorney friend? Whom else did I know? My answers, including the one that I knew no one else in Argentina, provoked their first threat of the Seccion Special, the Argentine gestapo which throughout the country is noted for brutality, robbery, rape and murder.

I repeatedly asked the charge against me, demanded permission to phone the U.S. Consul. All requests were denied.

MELODRAMA: I was led back to the cell, but the guard left the cell door open and I could walk about the little courtyard. It was raining and the place was cheerless except for the irrepressible gayety of some women picked up for streetwalking.

Hours later I was led into the private office where the head of the Seccion Special had come to question me. He



ELMER BENDINER
A revealing week-end

offered me a cigarette and a comfortable armchair. He explained that there was no charge against me; I was being held as a witness and would be freed as soon as I explained how I came to know my friend and told whom else I knew. Completely unsatisfied with my answers he became brusque, melodramatic, rose from his chair with every gesture straight out of a movie, said:

"We are wasting our time. After tomorrow morning you will change your mind and we will talk again."

CHILLS & CHICKEN: As night came on my courtyard became impossibly cold. One of the lawyers, who was held in an inside office, sent me his overcoat and some food.

At about 10 p.m., the questioning began again in the chief's office. From snatches of conversation I had had with the imprisoned lawyers I learned that they too would make and sign declarations; there was no point in refusal.

My Spanish ordinarily is adequate but in this interview as in later ones I learned to fail to understand whenever problems arose. I changed my story several times with an obvious lack of logic to explain why I knew no one in Buenos Aires except my lawyer friend and how I came to know him.

Police, who had no order to feed anybody, let me join the lawyers in a little office where they had accumulated piles of chicken parts, tortillas and pastries. The lawyers laughed, joked, talked about a Spanish translation of **We Charge Genocide**, the future of civil liberties in Argentina. For Argentine progressives prison is no novelty but a calculated risk.

IN THE SECCION SPECIAL: At 1 a.m. we were loaded into a van and driven through Buenos Aires streets, still lively.

The Seccion Special is in a dignified, closely-guarded building, elegant with carpeted stairs, expensive-looking furniture. We waited in a corridor while other prisoners passed through. Among them were some young women. I remembered talking a few days earlier with a young woman who had been arrested for distributing peace leaflets. She had been taken to this same building, beaten, then raped by six men.

When the Seccion Special investigator came out he asked one of the lawyers whether he remembered him. The lawyer had led a valiant fight and named this same agent as responsible for the brutal, near-fatal beating of a prisoner.

GUILTY OF PEACE: The interrogation lasted most of the night; my questioner sat at a typewriter sipping mate through a silver straw, cracking his knuckles disconcertingly and taking down my answers. With great triumph he picked out of his research reports a bulletin issued by the Peace Partisans in 1949, listing me along with many others as an adherent to the Waldorf-Astoria Peace Conference.

Questions covered everything I thought, said, did. At times the questioner was menacing, at others cajoling. He insisted I was a communist, demanded I state my ideology. I told him it was simple: "peace and democracy."

At 6:00 it was over and I was led to a smaller and damper cell, with the same stone ledge and a barred grating high above my head admitting only a little light in the dawn.

THE PETITION: The walls were covered with inscriptions scratched by former prisoners. There was a neatly-drawn miniature petition for a Big Five peace pact, with room for signatures. All about the walls was the slogan "Viva la paz," and at one corner: "Viva el Partido Communista de Argentina." Over the metal door was the message: "We will have a Nuremberg in Argentina too." One of the prisoners had marked off the days; I reckoned he had been in that cell for seven months.

Down the gallery I could hear the lawyers talking—they had been kept two to a cell—and women's voices singing. I passed the hours huddled in my lawyer friend's overcoat, going over in my mind the next answers I would give, trying to decide whether or not to be hopeful. There was no food all day.

FREE AGAIN: Suddenly in the afternoon I was led out again. The Seccion Special chief's attiitude had changed completely. He told me I was free, returned my belongings, even chatted with me. I asked about the lawyers and what charge there was against them. He said: "They are communists."

A detective and I walked out into the rain. At headquarters they took three photos and three sets of fiingerprints, and then ostensibly I was free. I started down the street knowing the detective would follow. I waited around a corner until he caught up with me, then told him I'd rather he walked with me than followed me. Sheepishly he tagged along until I leaped on a bus, got off five blocks later, lost him.

"THE WAY IT IS": Next morning the U.S. Embassy phoned to ask me to come in. I went. The Embassy officials were properly sympathetic, said they read of my imprisonment and were prepared to act to get me out if I had been held longer. After I told them what happened and how, they asked whether my friend at whose house I stayed was a Communist. I said so far as I knew he was not, but that he had defended political opponents of Peron. The Embassy official said:

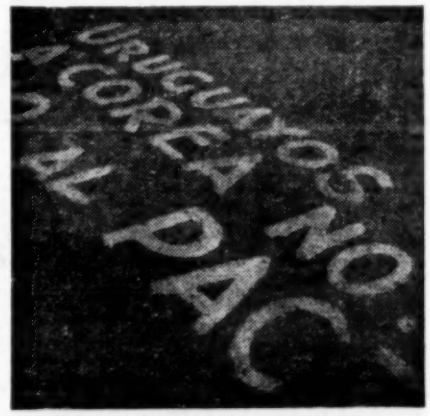
"That's the way it is in Argentina. If you just defend any opponent of the regime, they call you a communist."

The officials expressed great concern for my safety, promised to stand by if needed. I found that others had done more than stand by. All that week-end telegrams had been pouring in from Latin-American countries demanding my release. Papers had been drawn up for habeas corpus proceedings.

For the police and the press my case was important only because they needed an epithet to damn the peace movement. "Communist" is not enough in Argentina; the kiss of death is better given with the words: "Yankee" and "Wall Street."

Before I left the lawyers had been swiftly, perfunctorily tried. The Yankee issue out of the way, it was thought they would get 30 days.

For myself the stone slab, the cell, the Seccion Special were parts of a revealing week-end. For Argentines it is a way of life.



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